



Monthly report number	2013/09
Month	SEPTEMBER
Country	South America (except Colombia for HA)
Date of submission	10/10/13
Author	ECHO Quito team

MONTHLY REPORT

1. SUMMARY / MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

- (1) **Argentina – Forest fires and drought:** The provinces of Santa Fe, Formosa and Salta are being affected by protracted drought which is causing severe damages in agricultural and livestock production. Animal mortality is high, streams and lakes are almost dry and it is most probable that the harvest figures will drop considerably. While in the Province of Córdoba is being affected by forest fires, more than 500 persons have been evacuated, while 40,000 hectares of forest have been devastated by the fire, and an uncounted number of animals have died.
- (2) **Bolivia – Drought:** 247,000 hectares of land have been affected by droughts, frost and fires in more than a half of the Bolivian territory. Drought is affecting 51 municipalities in the departments of Chuquisaca, Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, La Paz and Tarija.
- (3) **Brazil – Heavy rains:** At least 70,000 persons and approximately 16,499 houses have been affected in the states of Río Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and Paraná.
- (4) **Ecuador – Forest fires and Tungurahua Volcano activity:** Forests fires have caused devastation in the provinces of Azuay, Chimborazo, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Cañar, Loja and Guayas destroying the native vegetation of these areas, due to lack of rains, high temperatures and strong winds. Approximately 1,208 hectares of land have been destroyed by the fires in the country. Fires have destroyed forests in Quito, Ecuador's capital city. Hot spots put at risk the surroundings of Quito city.
Tungurahua volcano's activity has moderately increased. The activity was characterized by an explosion accompanied by gas, steam and incandescent material.
- (5) **Paraguay – Drought and hailstorm:** The Chaco region is being affected by a severe drought and the state of emergency has been declared in the departments of: Presidente Hayes, Boqueron and Alto Paraguay, at least 15,000 families have been affected.
A severe hailstorm accompanied by strong winds hit four departments: Central, Caaguazú, Cordillera and San Pedro. More than 12,513 families (about 70,000 people) have been affected.
- (6) **Peru –heavy snowfall and extreme cold weather:** The worst snowfall in 10 years has been registered in the southern and central highlands of the country. At least 83,444 persons have been affected, from which 5,247 have lost their houses and livelihoods.
Earthquake in Arequipa: an earthquake measuring 6, 9 in the Richter scale at a depth of 37 km struck the coastal areas of the Department of Arequipa, southern Peru. A tsunami alert was discarded by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. At least 4,689 persons have been affected, from which 1,027 persons have been severely affected. A total of 196 houses are inhabitable and another 964 are severely affected and will need urgent rehabilitation.
Ubinas Volcano activity: Ubinas Volcano activity, located in the Department of Moquegua, has considerable increased its activity. Ash fall has been registered in several communities and is causing effects in pastures, crops,

animals and water sources, as well in the population's health. Yellow alert has been declared in the volcano surrounding areas.

Coffee plague: Emergency was declared for 60 days several departments of Peru affected by the yellow rust in coffee plantations: Amazonas, Ayacucho, Cajamarca, Cusco, Huánuco, Junín, Pasco, Puno, San Martín, Ucayali and Piura, including the VRAEM area (the valley of the rivers Apurímac, Ene and Mantaro).

ECHO intervention:

*An **SSR project** for 196,000 EUR has been approved for providing humanitarian assistance to population affected by extreme weather conditions in the Department of Puno. The project will be implemented by the German Red Cross.

*An **Epidemics project** for 140,000 EUR has been approved for providing health care assistance to population affected by extreme weather conditions, especially pneumonia and acute respiratory infections.

*ECHO is financing 65,000 EUR of the **DREF** for supporting livelihoods recovery to the affected population in the Department of Puno due to the extreme weather conditions.

More information about ECHO response to the cold wave in the Peru:

http://eas.europa.eu/delegations/peru/press_corner/all_news/news/2013/2013_09_26_es.htm

- (7) **ECHO DRR Regional Planning Seminar** was carried out in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in order to articulate, create synergies and exchange experiences between our partners in South America along the DIPECHO Action Plan 2013-2014.
- (8) **UNASUR Disaster Management Working Group** has been established. In the framework of this new working group South American countries are engaged in putting efforts to mainstream DRM at high levels.

EVENTS



- **Ecuador**
 - Forest fires have caused damages in several provinces of the country.
 - Tungurahua Volcano increased its activity.
- **Peru:**
 - The worst snowfall in 10 years has been registered in in the southern and central highlands.
 - An earthquake measuring 6, 9 in the Richter struck the Department of Arequipa.
 - Ubinas Volcano increased its activity.
 - Coffee rust: Emergency declared.
- **Bolivia:**
 - 247,000 hectares of land have been affected by droughts, frost and fires in more than a half of the Bolivian territory.
- **Brazil**
 - Heavy rains have caused damages in the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Paraná, and Sta. Catarina
- **Paraguay:**
 - The Chaco region is being affected by a severe drought. A severe hailstorm accompanied by strong winds hit four departments: Central, Caaguazú, Cordillera and San Pedro.
- **Argentina:**
 - The provinces of Santa Fe, Formosa and Salta are being affected by drought, while the province of Cordoba is being affected by forest fires.

ECHO MAIN ACTIVITIES



- Visit to Caracas (Venezuela) in order to analyse the situation regarding urban violence and its humanitarian consequences.
- Regional ECHO DRR planning Seminar carried out in Guayaquil, Ecuador.
- Monitoring of Emergency Project in Los Rios, Ecuador.
- Monitoring visit of SRR and DIPECHO projects in Argentina.
- Aquarius meeting in Brussels

ARGENTINA

1. EVOLUTION OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Drought and forest fires

- A severe drought is affecting the central and northern areas of the **Province of Santa Fe**. Lack of rains and high temperatures are causing severe damages to agricultural and livestock production. In several towns and districts potable water has been interrupted, it is expected that authorities distribute water through tanker trucks.
- According to authorities animal mortality is high, streams and lakes are almost dry and it is most probable that the harvest figures will drop considerably. At least 15% of planted wheat has been affected, which means 22,300 hectares of cultivated crops. Only 35% of the cultivable surface has availability of good quality of water. 50% of short term crops are in regular condition, while 30% is in bad conditions.
- Sunflower production has decreased in a 15% compared to the last agricultural campaign. Only 20% of the foreseen surface has been sowed.
- The **Province of Salta** is also being affected by drought, during the past two years 80% of farmers have abandoned the activity because of the lack of water.
- More than a half of the **Province of Cordoba** is being affected by at least one hundred fire spots which are causing severe damages. More than 500 persons have been evacuated, while 40,000 hectares of forest have been devastated by the fire, and an uncounted number of animals have died.
- Main cause of the fires is the prolonged drought for more than four months; extreme high temperatures over 43°C and blast of winds have been registered (43°C) worsening the situation. Fires reached several urban localities where more than 30 houses were burnt and others were damaged. At least 500 persons have been evacuated. Basic services have been damaged by the fire. The national and provincial fire management plans are activated. The province has its own resources (human and economic) to face the emergency situation. The provincial government will be in charge of re-building destroyed and damaged homes and will provide the necessary assistance.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing declared “agricultural state of emergency” to the **provinces of Salta and Formosa**, which are being affected by different weather conditions. Through the emergency decree, farmers affected by cold snaps who have lost their fruit and vegetable production can access to credits and assistance. While, farmers affected by drought who lost their soy, maize, peanut and cotton production will also have access to assistance. Assistance will also be provided to farmers whose livestock is being affected by the lack of water and food.

2. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND MAIN ISSUES

- ECHO Quito Field Office is closely monitoring the situation in Argentina.

BOLIVIA

1. EVOLUTION OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Droughts, fires and intense snowfall affect Bolivia

- According to officials 247,000 hectares have been affected by droughts, frost and fires in more than a half of the Bolivian territory. The National authorities are organizing actions to mitigate the intensification of hot spots. Approximately 174,000 hectares correspond to drought affected areas in Chuquisaca, Santa Cruz and Tarija, another 72,000 hectares have been damaged due to fires in Chiquitanía cruceña; and more than 1,000 in Cordillera Oriental and el Chaco have been affected due to snowstorms.
- Drought is affecting 51 municipalities in Chuquisaca, Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, La Paz and Tarija Departments, even if Santa Cruz is the most affected in number of families and hectares of crops.
- The impact of damage is different in each zone. For instance, the number of hectares affected in el Chaco is not productive, it is an irregular area, and damages are being registered in terms of biodiversity. In Cochabamba, crops were damaged but also 2,700 heads of cattle died as a consequence of snowstorms. According to the official figures, at the moment, five deaths have been reported as a consequence of snowstorms (four in Potosí and one in Cochabamba).

- The Defense Vice Ministry (VIDECI) has confirmed a total of 52,146 families and 22,588 heads of cattle affected. The institution is providing food, NFI's, forage, and animal medication for more than 22,000 heads of cattle in approximately 50 municipalities.
- According to authorities, there is a decrease in the number of fires and drought if compared to last year's figures, nonetheless, the problem is the climatological change as snowstorms were not expected by this time of the year and have affected the land and the cattle. The National Meteorology and Hydrology Service (SENAMHI), announced that the hot stops will reach their highest peak in November. An orange alert has been issued in Beni Department and red alert will be declared in Riberalta as a consequence of fires.
- VIDECI is in process of carrying out damage needs assessments. Regarding livestock, 40,000 head of sheep and 30,000 alpaca have been affected by frosts and snow. The snow has also caused roadblocks, several communities are isolated and local authorities are working to clear roads and to assist the most affected people.

2. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND MAIN ISSUES

- ECHO Quito Field Office is closely monitoring the situation in Bolivia.

BRAZIL

1. EVOLUTION OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Heavy rainfall

- At least 70,000 persons and approximately 16,499 houses have been affected by heavy rains in the **states of Río Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and Paraná**.
- Emergency has been declared in the **State of Santa Catarina**, southern Brazil, where at least 50 municipalities have been affected by heavy rainfall. According to Santa Catarina State authorities, at least 20,000 have been affected in this state, out of which 5,000 have been temporarily evacuated from their houses. School activities have been suspended in 52 municipalities.
- According to Civil Defence, in **Río Grande** 650 people have lost their homes and in **Paraná** 261 people. President Dilma Roussef ordered the Ministries to immediately visit the affected areas and provide urgent support to the population. In 2008, Santa Catarina was a disaster scenario as a consequence of intense rainfall, which caused the death of 140 people.
- A tornado caused destruction in Taquaritiba city, located at 320 kilometers of **Sao Paulo**, causing 2 deaths, 64 injured people and the destruction of 100 houses, as well as the interruption of electricity and telephone services.

ECUADOR

1. EVOLUTION OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Forest fires and Tungurahua volcano activity

- Forest fires have caused devastation in the provinces of Azuay, Chimborazo, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Cañar, Loja and Guayas destroying the native vegetation of these areas, due to lack of rains, high temperatures and strong winds. Approximately 1,208 hectares of land have been destroyed by the fires in the country.
- **Fires** have destroyed forests **in Quito**, Ecuador's capital city. Hot spots put at risk the surroundings of Quito city: Metropolitan Park, Calacalí parish and Auqui. Other hot spots were also registered in other populated areas such as Monjas Orquídeas, La Vicentina, Simón Bolívar and General Rumiñahui. There are no official figures on the total number of hectares destroyed by the fires; however the Mayor informed that a total of 400 hectares could have been affected.
- **Activity increases in Tungurahua volcano** – According to the National Geophysical Institute, Tungurahua volcano's activity has moderately increased. The activity was characterized by an explosion accompanied by gas, steam and incandescent material. Steam and ash columns reached 100 and 200 meters of altitude. Slight seismic activity has also been registered and could imply a change in the volcano's behaviour. The volcano is under strict surveillance.

PARAGUAY

1. EVOLUTION OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Drought and hailstorm

- The Chaco region is being affected by a severe drought and the state of emergency has been declared in the departments of: President Hayes, Boqueron and Alto Paraguay.
- According to the National Emergency Secretariat (SEN) at least 15,000 families are being affected by the drought. The emergency decree ensures the use of the National Emergency Fund to assist the affected population.
- SEN is distributing thousands of litres of water to affected communities. The institution is coordinating with the departmental governments and municipalities the delivery of food assistance.

Severe hailstorm affected four Departments and thousands of families - A severe hailstorm accompanied by strong winds hit four departments in Paraguay (Central, Caaguazú, Cordillera and San Pedro) causing damages. Hundreds of houses have been affected, two persons have been reported dead and thousands of families affected.

- According to preliminary data from the National Emergency Secretariat, more than 12,513 families (about 70,000 people) have been affected in four departments of the country. The storm also destroyed thousands of hectares of crops, hospitals and health centres, schools, power lines and other productive infrastructure.
- The Vice-President of the Republic, Juan Afara (in charge of Presidency), visited the affected area along with several Ministers. They delivered primary aid to those affected (mainly: corrugated iron sheets for roofs, blankets and food). An emergency declaration is in process for the immediate allocation of resources to provide assistance to affected population. The SEN confirmed the release of PYG. 6,000 million of Guaranies (€ 1'021.648 EUR) from the Ministry of Finance to be used in assistance to populations affected by the storm.

PERU

1. EVOLUTION OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Heavy snowfall and extreme cold temperatures

- Since 24 August heavy snowfalls have been registered and are causing severe affectation in the highlands above 3,500 meters above sea level in the southern and central highlands, mainly in the departments of Puno, Cusco, Apurimac, Huancavelica, and Ayacucho.
It is the worst snowfall registered in the past 10 years. According to the National Service of Meteorology and Hydrology (SENAHMI) it is foreseen that it will continue or be repeated before the end of the cold season (third week of September). After the snowfalls SENAMHI has forecasted heavy frost, which will increase the damage caused by snowfalls.
- Extreme low temperatures have reached historical levels of **-18C°**. Considerable damage has been registered to livelihoods and homes of the most vulnerable families, especially those engaged in livestock of alpaca, sheep and subsistence agriculture. In the mid- term worsening of chronic malnutrition by food insecurity and loss of livelihoods is foreseen.
- According to preliminary data, at least 83,444 persons have been affected, from which 5,247 have lost their houses and livelihoods. Approximately 26,640 livestock has died and 683,344 are affected. 827 houses have collapsed or are inhabitable and 6,259 are affected.
- The Government declared in State of Emergency 107 districts of 23 provinces in the regions of Puno, Cusco, Ayacucho and Apurimac. The Government is addressing humanitarian needs in health, shelter, and veterinary care to protect livelihoods. In-depth damage and needs assessments to identify specific needs and medium-term are still under implementation.
- Only in the province of Carabaya, department of Puno, of 275.138 livestock (alpaca), 79% are affected, 2,751 adult cattle have been lost, and there is a loss of 11,940 young animals, which represents 9% average population of the offspring.
- Approximately 812 ton of relief goods for cold covering, food and household goods have been distributed by the Government.

- The Ministry of Health reports an increase of severe acute respiratory infections such as pneumonia especially in vulnerable groups (children under 5 years, the elderly, etc.). At least 624 cases of acute respiratory infections per 10,000 inhabitants, and 21,578 pneumonia in children under five years mainly in the regions of Lima, Loreto, Piura, Arequipa and Puno with 274 deaths mainly in Loreto, Puno, Junín, Lima and Cusco. The highest death rates are in Junin, Puno, Pasco, Ayacucho Tumbes likely associated to limitations on attention access and timeliness of care. Compared to the years 2011 and 2012 an increase of 20% of deaths attributable to pneumonia is reported.

Earthquake in Arequipa - According to the Geophysical Institute of Peru, an earthquake measuring 6, 9 in the Richter scale at a depth of 37 km struck the coastal areas of the Department of Arequipa, southern Peru. A tsunami alert was discarded by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. Medium scale aftershocks have been registered.

- The earthquake was strongly felt in the provinces of Camaná and Castilla (Arequipa Department), it was also felt in the departments of Lima, Huancavelica, Ayacucho, Ica, Cusco and in Chile.
- No victims have been reported. Damages to infrastructure were reported, the telephone service collapsed. Most affected districts are Lomas, Chala, and Acarí where houses have been severely affected; damages have also been registered in Ica, Huancavelica, Ayacucho and Cusco.
- At least 4,689 persons have been affected, from which 1,027 persons have been severely affected. A total of 196 houses are inhabitable and another 964 are severely affected and will need urgent rehabilitation.
- The earthquake caused landslides that blocked several sections of roads and highways, especially the main highway Panamericana Sur.
- The Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM) declared the State of Emergency for 60 days in the departments of Arequipa, Ayacucho and Ica with the aim to take immediate response and rehabilitation actions in the districts affected by the earthquake.
- The Chief of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers visited the affected areas in Arequipa and guaranteed the commitment of the Government in the mitigation of damages and assured that the situation is under control. He also informed that the affected regional and local governments are closely coordinating response and rehabilitation actions with the National Civil Defence Institute.
- The National Emergency Operations Centre was activated and closely monitoring the situation. A damage assessment is in process. Damages and need assessments are in process. The Army will support the reconstruction actions.

Ubinas Volcano increases its activity - According to the Volcanology and Geology Institute, the activity of Ubinas Volcano, located in the Department of Moquegua, has considerably increased its activity; which is accompanied by explosions of steam, gas and ashes. Ash fall has been registered in several communities and is causing effects in pastures, crops, animals and water sources, as well in the population's health. Yellow alert has been declared in the volcano surrounding areas.

- Population is in alert and a contingency plan will be elaborated regarding the eruption process. The National Civil Defence Institute has recommended the evacuation of the population in the district of Querapi, which is the nearest location to the volcano. Specialists of the National Water Authority are assessing Tambo River basin in order to determine the possible affectation of water sources.
- The Presidency of the Ministry Council declared in emergency for 60 days several districts in the departments of Moquegua and Arequipa, which are being affected by the eruption process of Ubinas Volcano. The emergency decree forces regional and local governments to execute immediate measures for response and rehabilitation actions in the volcano surrounding areas.
- Local authorities and institutions are in process of undertaking a deep needs assessment, as well as analyzing an imminent evacuation of population and its relocation as a preventive measure. The Regional Health Directorate in Moquegua is providing health care to affected population and is monitoring the air quality in the district.

Yellow Rust in coffee plantations

- The Presidency of the Ministries Council (PCM) has declared in emergency for 60 days several departments of Peru affected by the yellow rust in coffee plantations: Amazonas, Ayacucho, Cajamarca, Cusco, Huánuco, Junín, Pasco, Puno, San Martín, Ucayali and Piura, including the VRAEM area (the valley of the rivers Apurímac, Ene and Mantaro).
- Regional and local governments should implement immediate actions in order to control the propagation of yellow rust and respond to the emergency in the affected areas.
- The National Civil Defence Institute will be in charge of coordinating actions to control the plague with the regional governments, sectors, institutions and other government institutions.

2. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND MAIN ISSUES

- ECHO Quito Field Office is closely monitoring the situation with its partners in Peru.
- An SSR project for 196,000 EUR has been approved for providing humanitarian assistance to population affected by extreme weather conditions in the Department of Puno. The project will be implemented by the German Red Cross. Also, 65,000 EUR of the DREF will be financed by ECHO in order to compliment actions related to recovery of livelihoods in Puno.
- An Epidemics project for 140,000 EUR has been approved for providing health care assistance to population affected by extreme weather conditions, especially pneumonia and acute respiratory infections.

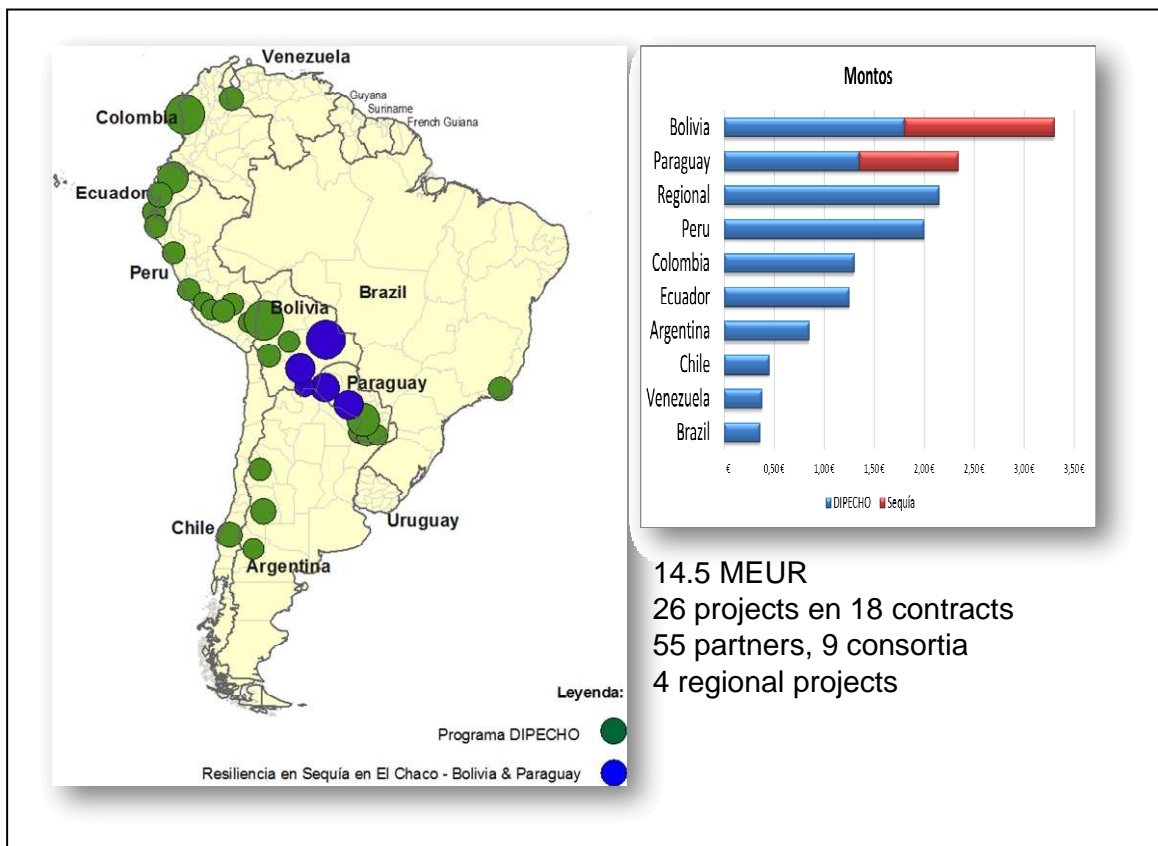
ONGOING OPERATIONS

REGIONAL EMERGENCY HIP 2012

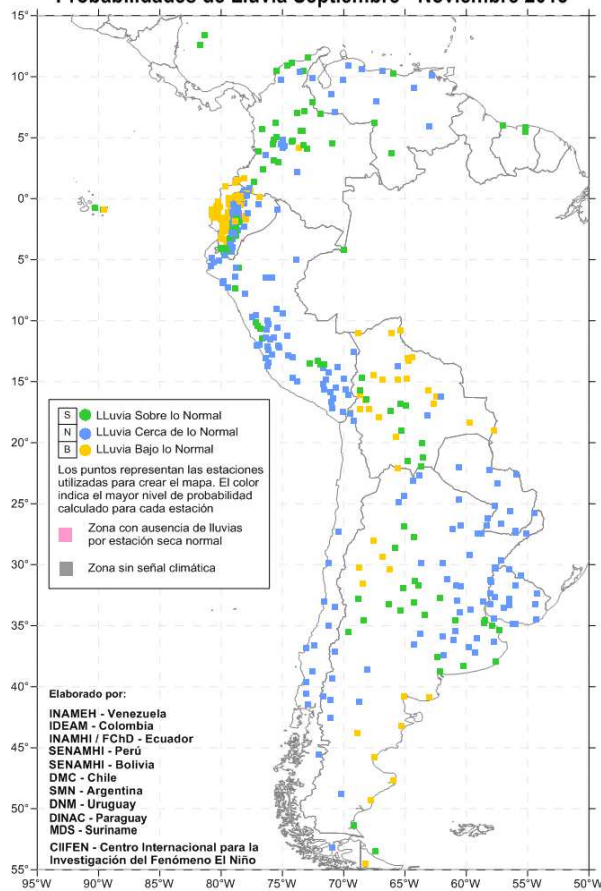
- Regional Humanitarian Implementation plan (HIP) of €5 million with 12 months duration to assist people affected by severe flooding in South America, particularly in Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Ecuador, Colombia and Brazil. Projects ongoing:
 - Ecuador: Spanish Red Cross and Plan International
 - Peru: Spanish Red Cross
 - Bolivia: FAO and COOPI
 - Paraguay: COOPI and Spanish Red Cross

DRR/Resilience Programmes 2013-2014

- DRR/ Resilience Projects started in May: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Chile and Argentina.



PRONÓSTICO ESTACIONAL OESTE Y SUR DE SUDAMÉRICA
Probabilidades de Lluvia Septiembre - Noviembre 2013



September - November 2013

Venezuela: More probabilities of precipitation near normal levels in most of the country.

Colombia: More probabilities of precipitation above normal levels in the central and northern areas of the country.

Ecuador: More probabilities of precipitations below normal levels in most of the country.

Peru: More probabilities of precipitation near normal levels in most of the country.

Bolivia: More probabilities of precipitation below normal levels in most of the country.

Chile: More probabilities of precipitations near normal levels in the northern, central, southern and Austral regions.

Argentina: More probabilities of precipitation above normal level in most the central region. While in the coastal region more probabilities of precipitation near normal levels.

Uruguay: More probabilities of precipitation near or below normal levels in most of the country.

Paraguay: More probabilities of precipitations near normal levels in most of the country.

Sources: (CIIFEN), International research centre on el Niño